



What can ESA funds be spent on?

Funds must be used to provide qualified students an education which includes, at a minimum; reading, grammar, mathematics, social studies, and science.

Eligible expenses are:

- Tuition or fees at a nongovernmental (private) school and/or private online learning program
- Textbooks required by a private school
- Tutoring services from an accredited provider
- Approved curriculum, generally defined as a complete course of study for a particular content area or grade level
- Fees for nationally standardized norm-referenced achievement tests, advanced placement exams, or any exam related to post secondary admissions

*** For a complete list of eligible expenses please visit our website at www.azed.gov/esa*

Additional eligible expenses for student with disability are:

- Educational therapies or services from a licensed or accredited practitioner or provider
- Services/aide from a licensed or accredited paraprofessional

ESA Process

Applications for ESA are available ONLY one time during the school year.

**Late or incomplete applications
will not be accepted**

- ESA application and required documentation will ONLY be accepted between January 1– April 1, 2016. Deadline is April 1, 2016 at 3pm
- An ESA determination decision will be sent no later than May 30, 2016
- A signed contract and required documents must be mailed and received no later than June 20, 2016 at 3pm to remain eligible
- ESA applications are located at www.esa.azed.gov/esa
- Parents must withdraw the student from the public/charter school no later than June 30, 2016 AND obtain a Pupil Withdrawal Form



Arizona Department of Education

Empowerment Scholarship Account
(ESA) Program
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Empowerment Scholarship Account Program

The Empowerment Scholarship Account Program is a program administered by the Arizona Department of Education to provide alternative educational choices to students and parents.

Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) Program

Who is eligible for an ESA?

To be eligible for an Empowerment Scholarship, you and your student must reside in Arizona and meet at least one criteria from section 1 and section 2:

Section 1

- My student has attended an Arizona public school for the first 100 days of the 2015-2016 school year.
- My student is currently eligible for Kindergarten, meaning they will be 5 years old, but not 6, on or before September 1, 2016.
- My student is currently eligible for Preschool*, meaning they will be 3 or 4 years old on or before September 1, 2016. *Only children with a disability qualify under Preschool.
- My student is currently receiving a School Tuition Organization (STO) scholarship under the Displaced/Disabled Category.
- My student is the child of an activity duty member for the Armed Forces.

Section 2

- My student attended a "D or F" rated school for the 2015-2016 school year.
- My student has a disability that has been diagnosed or recognized by the public school system.
- My student was a ward of the state who has been adopted or the plan is to adopt.
- My student has a sibling who is currently receiving an ESA.
- My student is the child of an activity duty member of the Armed Forces.
- My student and I reside within the boundaries of an Indian Reservation.

If qualified, how much will the student receive? Monies are awarded based on:

- School district/charter school
- Grade level
- Disability (if applicable)

Required Documentation:

Copy of birth certificate

Students with a Disability:

- IEP; MET or 504 Plan (from a public school)

Documents expiring on or before July 15, 2016 will not be accepted

****** *Funding is based only on the primary eligibility of the IEP or MET*

Students of Active Duty Military Parent:

- Letter from the commanding officer and current military orders
- Proof of Arizona residency (no PO Box)
- * *Approved list on ESA website*

Foster Care & Adopted Students:

- Court documentation **OR**
- Letter from CPS case worker

Students Attending a "D or F" School

- No documentation required

Sibling of Current ESA Recipients:

- Copy of birth certificate of the student currently on the ESA program

Reservation:

- Proof of Arizona residency (no PO Box)
- * *Approved list on ESA website*

As one of the premiere school choice programs in the United States, ESA seeks to deliver high quality educational options as an alternative to public school.

An Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) is an account established to provide an education for qualified students. The program's main purpose is to provide options for parents to freely choose how and where to educate their children with financial assistance from the state.